

The role of cities and regions as drivers of global climate leadership in the post-Paris climate and energy governance. Best practices in Europe, China and the US

Stakeholder conference

Time and place: 19 April 2016, from 9:00 to 13:00 at the Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union, Rue Montoyer 47, Brussels

In cooperation with  Stiftung
Asienhaus

Context and Policy background

The implementation of the **intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs)** to the Paris agreement and the scaling-up of future ambition through the **five-year review cycle** will require actions at **all levels** (international, national, regional, local) and **different actors** (governments, civil society and private actors) to fulfil the commitments made in Paris and accelerate **the pace of decarbonisation** at global scale. The **Lima-Paris Action** managed to mobilize a multi-stakeholder movement, bringing together a large number of cities, private actors and civil society organisations to **scale up climate action** and speed up the uptake of innovative solutions.

Regions and cities could play a vital role in reaching **national climate and energy targets**, strengthening **resilience**, adopting **climate adaptation** measures and cooperating towards a more sustainable future. The United Nations Development Programme estimated that **50 to 80 % of climate adaptation and mitigation measures** will be implemented at the subnational or local levels. The 2015 UNFCCC report “Climate Action Now – A Summary for Policymakers 2015” also underlines the vital role of non-state actors such as cities, regions, provinces and companies in achieving larger reductions in current and future emissions.

The stakeholder conference aims to highlight the role of **subnational and local initiatives** in tackling climate mitigation and adaptation challenges, and discuss how EU institutions could better integrate these initiatives in **existing institutional partnerships and sectoral dialogues with the US and China**. The event will showcase some **successful local and regional models**, such as the Covenant of Mayors, the Sustainable Energy Community Initiative, Under 2 MOU Initiative, C40 technical and financial assistance model, as well as concrete bilateral city partnerships, and explore innovative solutions to common climate challenges that cities and regions are facing.

The conference will focus geographically on the role of the **EU, China and the US** as the three largest emitters and the major global players in shaping the international climate and energy governance. The bilateral partnerships between European and Chinese cities could be seen as a complementary tool for fostering collaboration on climate mitigation and adaptation through joint R&D projects, study exchange programmes, training programmes for young professionals and start ups, green technological innovations and driving eco demand.

Programme

Welcome notes

09:00 – 09:05

Rainer Steffens, Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union

Radostina Primova, Heinrich Böll Foundation European Union

Introduction session: Subnational actors as laboratories for policy innovation in climate and energy actions. Best practices at EU and global level

09:05 – 09:45

The goal of the introduction session is to provide a broader political context about the importance of subnational actors in the formulation and implementation of climate adaptation, mitigation measures, sustainable energy action plans, as well as promoting local leadership and awareness. The panel will showcase some successful European and global initiatives supporting sustainable energy communities and driving low-carbon developments at local level. The opening discussion will also shed light on some of the challenges that local and regional authorities are facing with regard to climate financing, environmental monitoring systems and energy management.

Speakers

Sirpa Hertell, Vice Chair of the ENVE Commission, European Committee of the Regions

Peter Defranceschi, Head of ICLEI Brussels Office, ICLEI

Claire Roumet, Executive Director, Energy Cities

Neil Walmsley, Manager, Finance and Economics, C40

Panel debate 1: EU-China climate and energy dialogue in the new green economy. Unlocking the potential of city partnerships in tackling climate mitigation and driving eco-innovation

09:45 – 11:15

Speakers

Pedro Ballesteros, DG Energy's Special Envoy on "EU-China Partnership on Urbanization" und the "EU-China Mayors Forum", European Commission

Jo Leinen, President of the China Delegation, European Parliament

Rüdiger Wagner, Executive Director, Environment and Health Division, City of Bonn

Wen Bo, Scientific Advisor for National Geographic Society's Air and Water Conservation Fund/ former China's Coordinator for the Global Greengrants Fund (GGF)

Dai Chunyan, Green & Low-Carbon Development Think Tank Partnership

The discussion aims to address the following questions:

- How could EU institutions integrate these initiatives in existing sectoral dialogues with China?
- What implications could China's shift away from the energy-intensive economic model have for the EU-China energy dialogue and trade relations?



- Which best practices exist so far on green innovations and sustainable urban development at city level in China? What can the EU learn from China?
- How can the EU and China tackle common challenges such as the grid integration of renewables, the market uptake of low-carbon technologies and the decarbonisation of their city transport systems?
- How could civil society be better involved in bilateral city partnerships?

Coffee and networking (11:15 - 11:45)

**Panel debate 2: How could regional climate cooperation be better embedded in the EU's transatlantic relations?
The Under 2 MOU initiative for global climate leadership**

11:45 – 12:45

Speakers

Elena Bardram, DG Clima, European Commission

Libby Ferguson, States & Regions Director, The Climate Group

Stefan Schurig, Director of Climate and Energy, World Future Council

Angelina Galiteva, Board of Directors, California Independent System Operator/Founder and President of Renewables 100 Policy Institute (via phone)

The discussion aims to address the following questions:

- How could EU institutions integrate these initiatives in existing sectoral dialogues with the US?
- What impact has the Under 2 MOU Initiative had on the political commitment of sub national governments, the institutionalization of sustainable energy practices at local and regional level, as well as the mobilization of stakeholders so far?
- What potential does it hold for future local and regional cooperation on climate mitigation and climate adaptation?
- Which best practices exist so far on green innovations and sustainable urban development at city level in the US? What can the EU learn from the US?

Lunch reception: 13:00 – 14:00

For further information, please contact Radostina.Primova@eu.boell.org

For registrations, please send an E-mail by Thursday, 14 April to: Event.NRW@lv-eu.nrw.de

Keyword: CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

We look forward to your participation!